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lections has been unavoidably delayed. Much more information has yet to be collected from libraries and institutions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Reference has been made to the union catalog of printed cards issued by various libraries, which is being filed in the Library of Congress. Will Mr Hastings tell us when this will be finished?

MR HASTINGS: We hope it will be completed by December, so we shall have a union card catalog in one alphabet of the Boston public, John Crerar, Harvard university and New York public libraries.

MR LANE: Is there any possibility of giving that still wider scope?

MR HASTINGS: Not without manuscript copying—except Pittsburgh.

MR RICHARDSON: Would the Library of Congress welcome typewritten cards?

MR HASTINGS: Yes.

MR HANSON: It should be said that the union catalog also includes the departmental libraries. With regard to Mr Lane's outlined plan, the most difficult part would be to make the large collection of books. The bureau of information could be more easily operated. I spent a day in the office of the Gesamtkatalog in Berlin. There the union catalog of German university libraries is finished to F or G, and with three or four assistants good work was done. In many libraries which I visited I heard the work of the Gesamtkatalog mentioned as a great help to them.

MR KOOPMAN: Would the Library of Congress be prepared to do any such bureau of information work in connection with the union catalog?

THE CHAIRMAN: While not prepared to commit the Librarian of Congress to any line of action, I may say that such requests as come in now are always answered if possible, and when a book is

asked for which we do not have, we try if possible to say in our answer where it may be found.

MR RANCK: What proportion of the books represented by these cards are found in one library only?

MR JOHNSTON: In developing the catalog in the Bureau of education, we found a considerable number of duplicates, 33% of which, for instance, could be found in the Library of Congress, and 22% in the John Crerar library.

MR AUSTEN: Is it the plan to indicate on these cards all the libraries containing the books?

MR HASTINGS: Yes, we file all the cards, one copy for each library.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will call for a report from the Committee on nominations.

MR AUSTEN, for the Committee, made the following nominations: For Chairman, Mr W. Dawson Johnston; for Secretary, Miss Beatrice Winsor. They were unanimously elected.

MR LANE: In behalf of my Committee I want to say that we should be glad to have it enlarged by the addition of members from this body in order that it may be more representative.

MR RICHARDSON offered the following resolution:

Resolved, that the College and Reference section recommend to the American Library Association that the Committee, appointed by the New England association of college librarians to consider and report on the question of establishing a central bureau of information and a lending library for colleges and universities, be made a Committee of the American Library Association.

The resolution was adopted.

Adjourned.

TRUSTEES' SECTION

A meeting of the Trustees' Section was held at Bretton Woods, July 1, 2:30 p. m., Mr W. T. Porter, of Cincinnati, in the chair. In the absence of the Secretary,

Frank E. Woodward was chosen secretary pro tem.

The following were present: Messrs. W. T. Porter, Cincinnati; David A. Boody,

Brooklyn; Joseph E. Beals, Middleboro, (Mass); Deloraine P. Corey, Malden; Frank E. Woodward, Malden; R. R. Bowker, New York city; N. D. C. Hodges, Cincinnati, and Mrs Elizabeth C. Earl, Connersville, (Ind).

Hon. David A. Boody, of Brooklyn, gave an interesting account of the way in which the work of the library board was conducted. This was supplemented by remarks of R. R. Bowker, a member of the same board.

Mr N. D. C. Hodges gave a description of the manner in which the work for the blind was undertaken and extended in Cincinnati.

On motion, the Chairman, David A. Boody, and Deloraine P. Corey were appointed a committee to prepare and issue an address to the Trustees before the next conference. On motion, it was voted to continue the present officers during the ensuing year, viz., W. T. Porter, Cincinnati, Chairman; T. L. Montgomery, Secretary.

CATALOG SECTION

FIRST SESSION

(Thursday, July 1, 1909, 2:30 p. m.)

MISS LAURA SMITH, Chairman of the Section, presiding.

MR J. C. M. HANSON, Chief of the Catalog division of the Library of Congress, presented the following paper on

THE SUBJECT CATALOGS OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

1. Prior to the reorganization of 1897

Most American libraries are familiar with a subject catalog published by the Library of Congress in 1869 in two large octavo volumes. The following statement from the preface gives an idea of its plan:

"The purpose of this catalogue is to afford the readiest available key to the books upon every subject which the Library of Congress embraces. It is not its purpose to furnish a bibliographical system, nor to add another to the numerous existing attempts toward the classification of human knowledge. In any such classification any arrangement except the alphabetical one must, from the nature of the case, be purely arbitrary. While every man can construct a system which sufficiently suits himself, it is commonly found that it is clear to very few others. The one thing needful in a catalog of subjects is instant facility of reference; and if a scientific arrangement of topics is sometimes sacrificed to this end, the student whose time is saved will be little disposed to quarrel with the bridge that carries him safely over.

The alphabetical arrangement of topics has been adopted and adhered to, both in the general alphabet and under each subordinate head, with occasional modifications where there seemed to be an over-

ruling reason for it. This method has one undeniable advantage over all others—it is its own interpreter. The alphabetical arrangement of topics, with a sufficiently copious system of cross-references, solves every difficulty as soon as it arises, instead of keeping the reader on a baffled search for knowledge. It thus fulfills the end of the highest utility."

Headings were, therefore, arranged in alphabetical order, but according to the alphabetic-classed not the dictionary plan. It was thought that, especially where the catalog extended beyond a single volume, the synthetic arrangement under a comprehensive heading would prove a labor saving expedient to the student. An endeavor was made to meet the main objection to this system by means of cross references from the particular to the general topics, e. g., from Comet to Astronomy, from Psychology to Mental science, the latter term having been selected rather than Philosophy or Metaphysics.

No general comparison need be attempted between the subject catalog of 1869 and the one now in process of development. The enormous growth in the literature of many subjects during the last forty years is best seen by a comparison of such headings as Photography, Railroads or the various headings under the words Electric and Electricity. In the catalog of 1869 there was one heading, Photography, with one subdivision and a total of 17 titles. Today there will be found under the same subject 128 headings and subdivisions with more than 300 titles and 108 references to related topics. Under Railroads there were in 1869, 51